

The Sourdough

S E N T I N E L

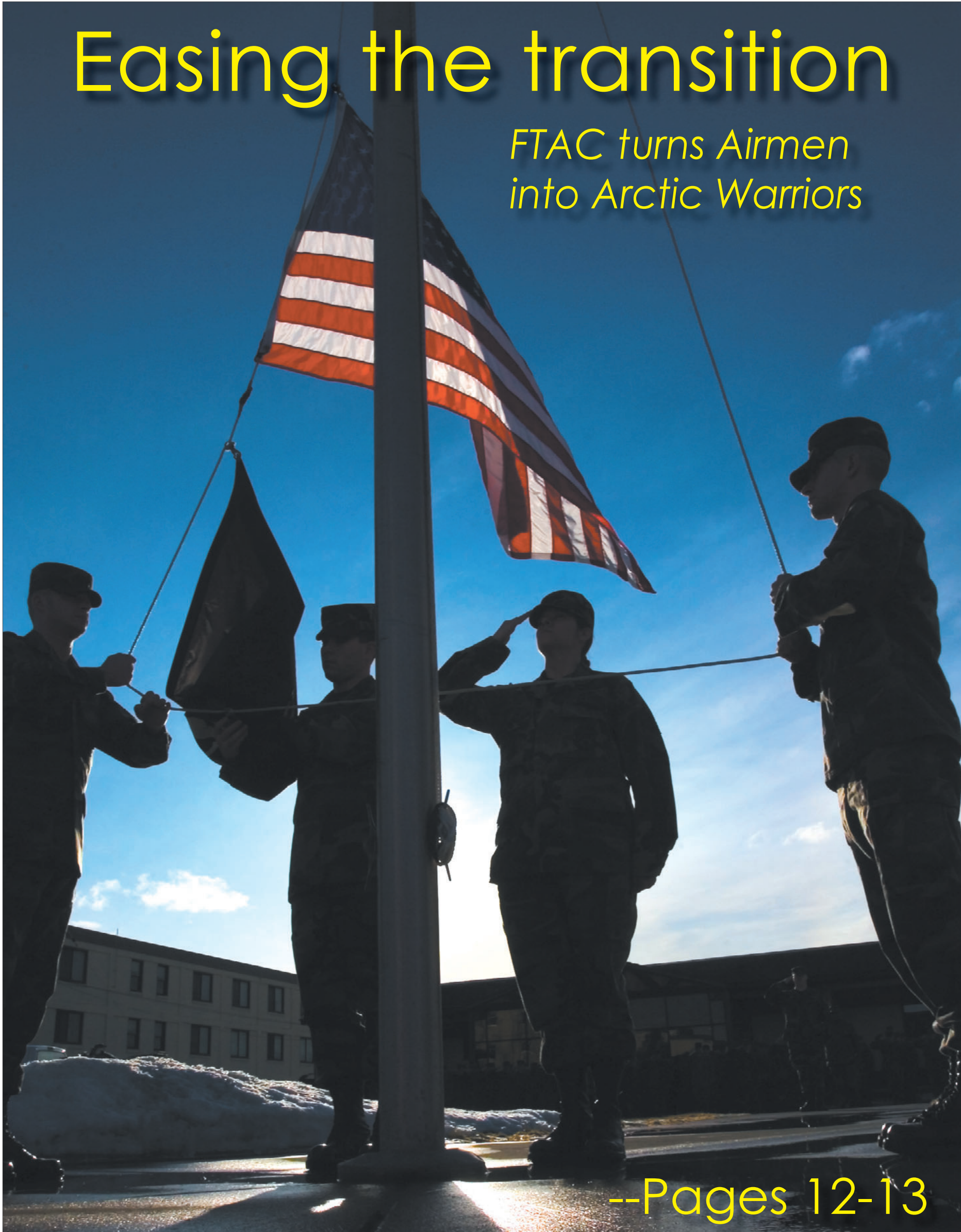
April 1, 2005

Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Vol. 56, No. 13

Easing the transition

*FTAC turns Airmen
into Arctic Warriors*



--Pages 12-13

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRET HOTHAN



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRETT HOTHAN

Eggstravaganza!

A base youth reaches for an Easter Egg during the Easter Egg hunt on the Youth Center baseball field Saturday. The free event was the highlight of the Easter Eggstravaganza, hosted by the Youth Center and the Arctic Oasis Community Center. Among the prizes won were bikes and tricycles, family lodging accommodations, bowling passes and a variety of other gift certificates.

Action Line



Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass
3rd Wing Commander

Do you have a problem you can't seem to get solved? Would you like to recognize someone for a job well done? The commander's action line is your avenue to communicate your questions, comments and concerns directly to the commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass. Your calls will get the commander's personal attention and be answered in a timely manner.

If you have a question, call or e-mail the action line at:

552-2224
actionline@elmendorf.af.mil

The following commanders stand ready to help you and can answer the majority of your questions. If they can't help, then please call the Action Line.

Key phone numbers:

- Col. Christopher Thelen, 3rd CES/CC 552-3007
- Lt. Col. David Aupperle, 3rd SVS/CC 552-2468
- Lt. Col. Robert Garza, 3rd SFS/CC 552-4304

Fishing license

Q: I went to Elmendorf today to get my fishing license stamped for Fort Richardson. However, I was told that I would have to go to Fort Richardson to get a license.

I just don't understand why the base and the fort can't get together and work as a team on this so that people's license can be stamped at either place.

A: I regret you were inconvenienced while trying to get your fishing license stamped

for Fort Richardson. However, Elmendorf cannot offer recreational permits on Army facilities. The Air Force does not control the land and the recreational use of Army facilities is quite dynamic. Fort Richardson is composed of 29 smaller training areas. Army training requires frequent closure to one or many of these areas, which can affect recreation use of Fort Richardson. The U.S. Army Alaska Garrison at Fort Richardson utilizes a computer-based system, "USARTRAK,"

to provide automated telephone availability updates to recreational licensees. Recreational users are best served by going directly to USARAK to minimize the chances of being disappointed by unexpected closures of recreational opportunities. For more information about recreational opportunities available on U.S. Army property in Alaska, we recommend the following Web site: www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/REC_USARTRAC.htm Good luck in your fishing endeavors.



■ **Airman 1st Class Marquita Moran**, 19th Fighter Squadron, ran a section and fulfilled duties normally performed by three people when her cohorts departed on emergency leave and to a temporary deployed location.

Airman Moran also performed an exhaustive review of 50 squadron mobility folders, ensuring all unit members' mobility requirements were in order for the Polar Force exercise.

■ **Staff Sgt. Cynthia Vetter**, 3rd Maintenance Operations Squadron, spearheaded the software upgrade to the Core Automated Maintenance System database.

This weeklong project involved more than 50 critical pre-conversion steps, including writing computer scripts and acting as coordinator between 3rd Wing and Alaskan Air National Guard units.

She monitored the transition throughout the process, preventing fatal system errors and eliminating delays.

Sergeant Vetter's efforts ensured this essential conversion was completed two days ahead of schedule.

■ **Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson**, 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron, performed far beyond his grade during the recent Silver Flag contingency training at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

He set a new record for expedient power plant start up operations, an effort recognized as "best seen to date" by the site cadre.

Also, during the Silver Flag Exercise, Airman Wilson's efficient installation of the emergency airfield lighting system garnered individual recognition for leadership by the Silver Flag site commander.

■ This week's commander's shadow is **1st Lt. James Schiess**, 19th Fighter Squadron.

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Best in DoD 2000
Best in Air Force
1999, 2000 & 2001
Best in PACAF
1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001
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3rd Wing Moment in History



April 1, 1942:

Lieutenant Robert Ruegg led the first 3rd Bomb Group war mission against the Japanese. His flight of five A-24s attacked an airfield at Salamaua, New Guinea. All planes returned to base.

Alaska offers unique training for military medic teams

By Master Sgt. Tim Hoffman
Alaskan Command public affairs

The often remote and isolated villages of Alaska offer a unique medical training opportunity for members of the military, while at the same time the military can provide hard-to-get care to the villages' underserved residents.

"Just getting our equipment and people here is a huge challenge," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Balum, a nurse corps officer assigned to the 4th Field Service Support Group in Washington. "Old Harbor is 70 miles from the city of Kodiak, and you can only get here by air or sea," said Lieutenant Commander Balum.

Throw in the winter wind, rain, fog and snow off the Pacific Ocean and any form of transportation is a roll of the dice.

But that hasn't deterred Lieutenant Commander Balum and his 10 other team members at Old Harbor, who are part of multi-service medical readiness and logistics training exercise called Arctic Care 2005. More than 60 medical, dental, optometry and veterinary service personnel deployed to six villages on Kodiak Island March 21-31. Another team of 80 members deployed to Galena in interior Alaska and went out from there to six villages.

"We are learning a lot about logistics, communications and operating independently," said Lieutenant Commander Balum. "This is not like working in a hospital in the lower 48 where everything is at hand. We have to plan and coordinate carefully — from having enough supplies to getting blood samples back to a lab in a timely manner."

The Coast Guard and their multi-mission helicopters are key in transporting equipment, supplies and people.



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

Old Harbor, Alaska — Old Harbor was one of several isolated villages that medical, dental and veterinary teams visited as part of a joint training exercise, Arctic Care 2005, held March 21-31.

"We couldn't do this without them," said Navy Capt. Karen Petrella, the commander of Arctic Care 2005, who is assigned to the 4th Dental Battalion in Marietta, Ga.

"We had a 1,500 pound kit that had to be moved to three villages and it's not real easy moving it all by helicopter."

Logistics are just as difficult for the residents. When most people in the lower 48 states need to visit a doctor, dentist or optometrist, they hop in their car and spend two dollars on gas and 15 minutes traveling. In rural Alaska, things aren't so easy.

"Our residents typically have to spend \$280 a trip just to get to Kodiak for care," said Ms. Joyce Elvehjem, Old Harbor's certified health practitioner. "That makes it difficult, especially for non-emergency care like dental work, that might require two or three visits to the dentist and often a stay overnight in a hotel."

That has made the military dentists popular here, with a projected 140 appointments for a village with

only 200 residents.

"Our goal is to save as many teeth as possible," said Army Lt. Col. Calvin Shiroma, a dentist assigned to Fort Richardson. "For the adults we've done x-rays, cleanings, fillings, and extractions. However, for the kids the public health effort here has been exceptional," said Shiroma. "We've only seen one pediatric patient with a cavity. Mostly we've just given them fluoride treatments."

While some team members were veterans of many exercises, others were getting their first experience in a deployment. "I'm having fun and learning a lot working with the other services," said Senior Airman Amie Holmberg, from the 3rd Dental Squadron at Elmendorf. "This is my first TDY, so I was excited about it. I didn't know why everyone back at the base wanted to come — now I do. It's been a great experience."

That experience included learning how to set up all the mobile equipment. It comes out of a hard shell box and, in fact, most of it stays attached to the box.

"This is a true contingency set up," said Chief Petty Officer Brenda Bryant with the 24th Dental Company in Atlanta. "I came in a day early and stared unpacking. The treatment chair and stand, as well as our x-ray machine, stay attached to the box for support — just like we would for a wartime deployment. The main problem was with the air compressor that drives all the dental power tools," said Petty Officer Bryant. "But, thanks to our Coast Guardsmen, we got that working."

Health service technician Mr. Michael Gray was also on his first deployment.

"I've been mostly doing blood draws and the paperwork that goes with them," said Mr. Gray. "It's a little different than just working with active duty. There's an older population here and typically as people age their veins are a little harder, so it's been a challenge to adjust my techniques."

The Coast Guard, along with members from the Reserve and active components of the Army, Army National Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Public Health Service made Arctic Care "a truly joint effort," said Captain Petrella.

"This is an excellent cold weather exercise. We've moved, set up and worked as a team in a multi-service setting," said Captain Petrella. "The training has been invaluable and we've also been able to provide top-notch care."



Army Lt. Col. Calvin Shiroma, a dentist at Fort Richardson, and Senior Airman Amie Holmberg, a dental technician at Elmendorf, provide care to an Old Harbor resident.

Dishonesty doesn’t pay: Sergeant reduced to Airman, jailed

By **Capt. Amy Hansen**
3rd Wing Public Affairs

An Elmendorf Airman was convicted in a general court martial here March 16.

Tech. Sgt. John Daggett, 381st Intelligence Squadron, pled guilty to one count of dereliction of duty for failing to maintain insurance on

his vehicle, three counts of larceny for accepting payments for items auctioned on-line that he never sent to the buyer, and five counts of providing false information on credit applications.

The court sentenced him to 45 months in jail, a reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge.

Sergeant Daggett, who had served for 19 years, also lost the privilege of collecting military retirement benefits.

His jail sentence was ultimately reduced to 30 months because of a pretrial agreement.

According to Capt. Matthew Hill, 3rd Wing assistant judge advocate, the prosecutor, Capt. Darrin Johns,

3rd Wing Legal Office, argued for such serious consequences because Sergeant Daggett’s actions were “completely inconsistent with Air Force core values.”

Evidence presented showed that Sergeant Daggett violated Article 92 and 121 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Title 18 of U.S. Code 1014.

COLA rates increase

Compiled from staff reports

Servicemembers at Elmendorf will get a 4 percent increase in their Cost of Living Allowance in their March end-of-month pay-checks due to a new way of accounting for cold-weather requirements.

COLA is an allowance designed to compensate service members for the difference between costs in the lower 48 and in an overseas area, and is based on the typical American family’s spending patterns and levels.

Under the previous COLA method, everyone in Alaska got the same amount for cold weather clothing and car winterization, regardless of their location and needs. Under the new method, the increases will vary according to grade and number of dependents as well as location.

“Members should routinely review their monthly Leave and Earnings Statement. All entitlement changes are reflected in the remarks section,” said Capt. Lisa Wildman, 3rd Comptroller Squadron financial services flight commander. “If a member has any questions, please contact our office at 552-5212 or e-mail 3cptsfso@elmendorf.af.mil.”



F/A-22 Raptor looking to land at Elmendorf

By Lt. Col Mike Halbig
3rd Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force intends to locate up to two squadrons of the new F/A-22 Raptor at Elmendorf, making it the aircraft’s second operational location.

“We’re honored to have been selected to be the second operational location for the Air Force’s new-est, most technologically advanced aircraft,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander. “It underscores the fact that Elmendorf is the most diverse, combat-capable wing in the Air Force and will remain so for years to come.”

Elmendorf was selected as the second operational location because of the existing infrastructure and training facilities available in Alaska, including air-to-air, bombing and electronic warfare training ranges. With more than 62,000 square miles of airspace, and the Pacific Alaska Range Complex, a 67,000 square mile area that enables realistic combat air to air training, live bombing opportunities, and state of the art electronic warfare ranges, the last frontier offers an ideal location for the F/A-22.

Bringing the F/A-22 to Elmendorf underscores America’s commitment to the region and ensures peace and security in the Western Pacific will remain well into the 21st century. Alaska’s unique advantage is that it is



COURTESY LOCKHEED-MARTIN CORPORATION

strategically located near the center of the northern hemisphere. This allows aircraft to literally deploy rapidly anywhere in the world and to be approximately nine hours flight time to nearly any location in the northern hemisphere

The exact numbers of aircraft and people assigned to the squadrons have not yet been determined and will be part of the implementation plan that has yet to be finalized.

The Air Force expects key elements of the plan to be in place by

the end of the decade. Deliveries of the aircraft are expected to begin after deliveries to Langley Air Force Base, Va, the initial operational location, are complete. The appropriate environmental analysis will be included in the plan.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRETT HOTHAN

Airman 1st Class Jacob Jordan

Duty title: 962nd Airborne Air Mobility Squadron airborne radar technician

Hometown: Elewa, Wis.

Hobbies: Snowboarding, fishing, hunting and hanging out with friends

How he contributes to the mission: Provides the ability for E-3 aircraft to build the theater air picture and communicates the radar image to other command and control platforms by operating, troubleshooting and maintaining the primary E-3 sensors

Time at Elmendorf: Six months

Best part of being in Alaska: The outdoors

Supervisor’s comments: “Airman Jordan is an oustanding troop. He’s really motivated and is always willing to help out on base and in the community.” Sgt. Staff Mikal Sommerdorf



Senior Airman Mary Dejnozka

Duty title: 3rd Services Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of Elmendorf’s Honor Guard program

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Hobbies: Spending time with family, outdoor activities, reading, cooking and sewing

How she contributes to the mission: Manages Elmendorf’s Honor Guard program to ensure all military honors requests are fulfilled and assists with the Mortuary Affairs program

Time at Elmendorf: Two years and four months

Best part of being in Alaska: Being with family and taking advantage of the long summer days

Supervisor’s comments: “Airman Dejnozka is the newest noncom-missed officer in charge of Elmendorf’s Honor Guard and is doing a fabulous job. She’s a hard charger and I know great things are going to happen in the honor guard.” 1st Lt. Rebecca Lee

Top 5 Enlisted Issues #4 — Dormitory Management

Combination of new living facilities, management system leads to improvements in quality of life for junior-ranking Arctic Warriors

Master Sgt. Martin Lease
3rd Mission Support Group

With 1,044 rooms and an average of 950 residents in the ranks of Senior Airman and below these are not the dorms our parents lived in.

Unaccompanied Airman arriving at Elmendorf will not see open bay showers or have to share a room with someone else.

Instead, they will arrive to find the dorms set up somewhat like most college campuses. They have individual rooms and most have kitchenettes, dining areas and brand new furniture. There are also two community centers, Klondike and Igloo Halls which serve as recreational facilities for our dorm residents.

Starting in 2001, Elmendorf has averaged one new dorm a year with two more due for construction sometime in 2007/2008.

These two new 120 room dorms will replace six of our older facilities which were built in the late 1950's.

Best of all, the next dorms are to be built to the Air Force's new "Dorms-4-Airmen" standard.

The name derives from how these dorms will be set up as four person modules or quads.

Each Airman will have their own bathroom and bedroom area while sharing a common living area, kitchenette, and laundry area within that quad.

Not only have dorm facilities changed over the years, but so has the type of person the Air Force needs to run these facilities.

With new facilities coming online and Quality of Life issues, the Air Force has changed the way dorm managers are hired. Every dorm manager on

Elmendorf was hand picked through an interview process based on Air Force core values, interpersonal skills and a proven record of success in their primary career fields.

We rely on our dorm managers to provide the Quality of Life and mentorship the Air Force has come to expect.

Even with the best possible dorm managers, that is not enough.

With participation of commanders, first sergeants and supervisors, the wing has implemented a few programs such as Charge of Quarters and Dorm Councils.

The CQ program ensures a safe and secure living environment for our Airman during weekends. Dorm Councils have given our dormitory Airmen a chance to voice concerns, recommendations and kudos in their individual dormitory.

However, it doesn't matter if you are a dorm resident, dorm manager, commander, first sergeant, or supervisor, everyone is a crucial member of the team and must participate.

In a memo dated Sept. 1, 2004, General Paul Hester, Pacific Air Forces

commander, stated "Our goal is simple but it is also an obligation — to provide a safe and healthy place for our warriors — America's Airmen."

If you are interested in a career-broadening experience and would like to hone your mentoring techniques by becoming a dorm manager, you can contact Master Sgt. Robert Taylor, dorm superintendent, at 552-9949/2377 or by e-mail at robert.taylor@elmendorf.af.mil.

Editor's note: This is the fifth in our series of articles outlining the Elmendorf Top 5 Enlisted Issues.





TECH. SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

Honor Guard graduates

(From right to left) Senior Airman Mercylen Ayo, Senior Airman Luis Caracosa, Airman 1st Class Raymond Bertram, Airman 1st Class Adam Ducharme and Airman 1st Class John McGrath, recent graduates of Elmendorf's Honor Guard program, demonstrate the steps of a firing party sequence during the Honor Guard graduation March 23. Before graduating, these Arctic Warriors attended a week-long training class, which was held in the Honor Guard training room in the Matanuska Hall. The classes taught basic drill movements and sequences for various ceremonies, and are mandatory for becoming a member of the Honor Guard team. The next classes are slated for the second week in May with exact times and dates to be announced on Topcover. For questions about the program, call 552-4600.

Town hall meeting

Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander, and Aurora Military Housing will hold a town hall meeting for all Phoenix housing residents Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Susitna Club. For more information, call the Housing Office at 552-4340.

Bank grand opening

The grand opening of Alaska USA’s new Elmendorf branch at the Joint Military Mall will begin Saturday and run through April 16. There will be balloons, cookies and drawings to win silver patriotic coins and a TV/DVD combo.

The bank’s lobby hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and the drive-thru is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

ATV briefing

A pre-season all-terrain vehicle safety briefing will be April 12 at the Base Theater at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The briefing is mandatory for all those who plan to ride an ATV this summer. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. David Case at 552-3938.

Suicide prevention

All military and civilian members are required to attend one of the following briefings at the Base Theater to satisfy their annual suicide awareness training requirement: April 11 at 3 p.m., April 13 at 7:30 a.m., May 2 at 3 p.m., May 4 at 7:30 a.m., May 18 at 3 p.m., June 6 at 3 p.m., June 8 at 7:30 a.m., and June 14 at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 580-1399 or contact your first sergeant or your squadron training manager.

Flu vaccine

The 3rd Medical Group has doses of flu vaccine remaining for any beneficiary six months and older regardless of risk history.

The Immunizations Clinic’s hours of operation are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call 580-5812.

Free child care

Returning Home Care is available for individuals returning from deployments through the Family Child Care program. Servicemembers are entitled to 16 hours of free FCC within 30 days of their return. For more information, call 552-3995.

ESPEAK helps

The Enlisted Spouses of Elmendorf Alaska, ESPEAK, is more than a social group; it’s a group of men and women, from various units who support the base by volunteering, providing financial assistance and offering educational briefings for their members.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Mrs. Donna Baker at 868-1193 or Mrs. Suzie Rennie at 622-4102.

Family Support Center

■ Spouse Connection Coffee Break is Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and is an opportunity for spouses to stop by the Arctic Oasis to meet new friends and

learn about base resources. No reservation is necessary.

■ Spouse Connection Potluck is April 9 from noon to 2 p.m. This is a pizza party at the Family Support Center. Call 552-9290 for more information.

Attic, Bargain Shop

The Airman’s Attic and the Bargain Shop are having spring clearance sales Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is open to all ranks and features merchandise such as bikes, furniture and clothes.

The Bargain Shop will have a bag sale today and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. People can fill a paper grocery bag full for \$3.

For more information call the Attic 552-5878 or the Shop 753-6134.

Chess tournament

The Thunderbird Open Chess Tournament is April 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. Registration is before the tournament from 8:30-9 a.m. for \$5 for ages 6-12 and \$10 for ages 13 and up. Participants must be members of the U.S. Chess Federation.

For more information, e-mail at faye.broaden@elmendorf.af.mil or call 552-8952.

Loaner furniture

The Housing Office has 90-day furniture loaner kits and long-term loaner appliances for people who have just arrived or have orders to depart Elmendorf.

For more information, call 552-2599/4439.



Chapel Schedule

Catholic Parish

- Monday through Wednesday and Friday Mass: 11:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center
- Thursday Mass: 11:30 a.m. at the Hospital Chapel
- Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. at Chapel 1
- Sunday Evening Mass: 5 p.m. at Chapel 2
- Confession: 6 p.m. Sundays at Chapel 2

Protestant Sunday

- Liturgical Service: 9 a.m. at Chapel 2
- Celebration Service: 9 a.m. at Chapel 1
- Gospel Service: noon at Chapel 1
- Fellowship Praise: 6 p.m. at Chapel 1

Religious Education

- Catholic Religious Education: Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Chapel Center.
- Protestant Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center.
- For more information, call the Chapel at 552-4422.

Arctic Life

Great living in the great land



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRETT HOTHAN

Time to ride

Above: With this past weekend’s clearer weather, Arctic Warriors gathered for an 18-mile bicycle ride.

Right: Roger Lee was one of 19 people who participated in the ride which was sponsored by Outdoor Recreation.

For information on other cycling trips, call Royce Drake at 552-2023 or visit his Web site home.gci.net/~draker/orc2.htm to see upcoming events.



Awareness month draws attention to key issues

By Ms. Colleen Leibert
Family Advocacy outreach manager

April is national Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness month. This year’s theme is “Decide to End Sexual Violence: Build Healthy Relationships.”

Sexual assault is a crime, motivated by power, cruelty, and control – the humiliation and domination of another person. Alaska ranked number one in the nation for sexual assault, twenty of the last twenty-seven years. The rate of sexual assault in Alaska is twice the national average, and Alaska’s child sexual abuse rate is six times the national average.

To counter this disturbing trend, Elmendorf has formed a Sexual Assault Free Environment Pro-

gram. SAFE works collaboratively with the Anchorage rape crisis agency, Standing Together Against Rape (STAR), to assist victims, families, and friends whose lives are touched by sexual violence.

This year, Elmendorf trained fifteen active-duty Victim Support Liaisons who act as advocates for both women and men, beginning at the time a sexual assault occurs, and are available throughout the medical exam, law enforcement interviews, or court proceedings.

Each April, Elmendorf and local community partners come together to provide education and raise awareness about sexual assault and child abuse. This year, activities begin with opening ceremonies today, signifying a community commitment to end sexual violence. Mayor Mark Begich, Brig.

Gen. Michael Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander, Col. Donna Boltz, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska commander, and several other community agencies and leaders will speak against sexual violence. A joint proclamation will be read today at 1 p.m., at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, located just outside the Muldoon gate.

Activities continue on base and in the local community throughout the month, including literature displays at the 3rd Medical Group hospital and Joint Military Mall.

For more information about Elmendorf’s sexual assault liaison program, call Ms. Pam Rhude, 580-2181. The VSL program can be accessed 24 hours a day, through the Emergency Room on-call provider, at 580-5555.



Lt. Col. Michael Convertino, commander

Unit Spotlight

3rd Communications Squadron

MISSION:

The 3rd Communications Squadron provides command, control, communications and computer systems, information management, and visual information to support air superiority, airlift, and surveillance missions of the 3rd Wing within the Alaskan Pacific operations area and abroad. They operate and maintain local area, long-range, and specialized systems supporting the Alaskan Command, Alaskan NORAD Region, 11th Air Force, and 90 associate units.





Above: Staff Sgt. Matthew Kornprobst, 3rd Maintenance Operations Squadron, Strike Eagle flight leader, inspects an FTAC student during an open ranks inspection. Students alternately wear their battle dress uniform and service dress throughout the week as directed.

Below: Students at the First Term Airman Center fill out critiques after lectures to give instructors and briefers a better understanding of how the program helps them.

Turning students into warriors

By Senior Airman Amy Morrisette
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Imagine what it would be like being a first-term airman, newly assigned to your first base and not knowing anyone or much about the Air Force. That would be stressful for most any Airman and adjusting to a new base would probably take a while ... if not for programs like the First Term Airman Center.

Take a lot of classroom learning and combine it with a daily dose of open ranks, mix in community service and hours of socialization, and you get the FTAC. The program is for all Airmen who are new to the Air Force.

“The purpose is to take Airmen from the training environment to a mission-oriented environment,” said Master Sgt. Gary Hadden, FTAC superintendent from the 3rd Mission Support Squadron. “Airmen are automatically sent to FTAC by their Commander’s Support Staff and they’ll start the program after Arctic Warrior Orientation.”

To provide newly arriving Airmen with everything they need to make a smooth transition, the 10-day FTAC program has a well-developed classroom curriculum. “After the morning’s open ranks, we have classroom instruction that features one FTAC instructor and 15 to 25 FTAC students. Some of the things we teach them are adapting to their first duty station,

dormitory standards, responsible behavior, effective communication and senior leader recognition,” he said.

However, the highlight of the FTAC program may be the service its participants provide in the community. “Last year, we had a total of 596 FTAC Airmen who accomplished 3,443 hours of community service at places like the Anchorage School District, and volunteering for events like Fur Rondy and City of Lights,” said Sergeant Hadden. “The community is always very grateful for our support and the Airmen are always happy to reach out into the community.”

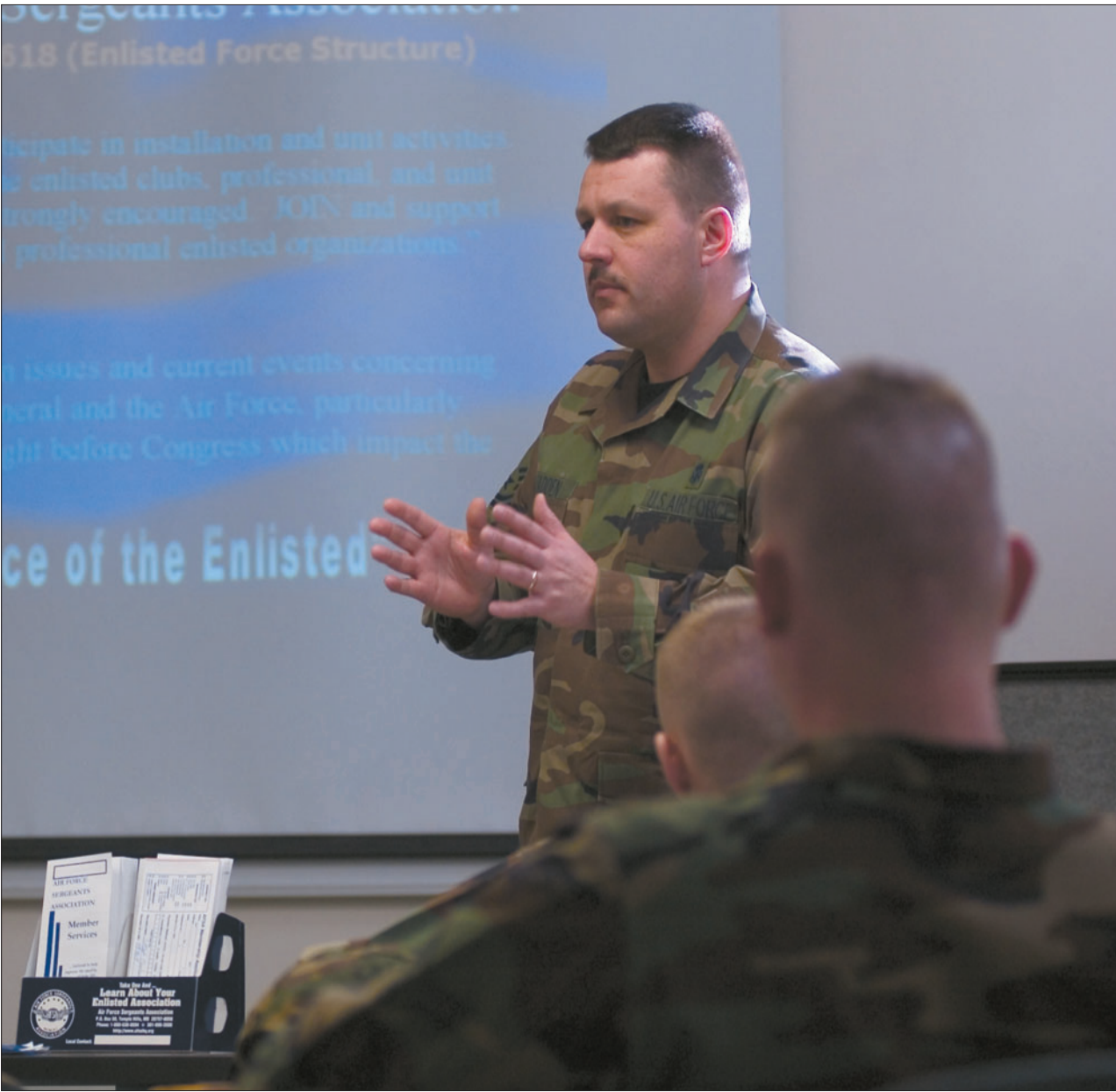
The FTAC participants also learn about and help out during base events, such as on weekends for Airmen Against Drunk Driving and by performing reveille and retreat ceremonies every Monday and Friday.

In addition to classroom training and community activities, the FTAC program sponsors field trips around base and downtown, and physical training three times a week.

“From all the activities we were involved in for these two weeks, I thought FTAC was extremely helpful. I learned about things to do and where to go on and off base. Not only that, I’ve made some really good friends that I still hang out with today,” said Senior Airman Zachary Braddock, a former FTAC student from the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRETT HOTHAN



Above: Master Sgt. Gary Hadden, 3rd Mission Support Squadron, FTAC superintendant, tells FTAC students about the First Sergeants associations and gives advice on many aspects of life in the Air Force.

Below: Airman 1st Class Audrey Ested (*foreground*), 381st Intelligence Squadron, works with Airman Shelley Segura, 3rd Dental Squadron, on touching up an illustration on the wall of the First Term Airman Center.

On the cover: FTAC students participate in a reveille ceremony at the Professional Military Education Center.



April is Month of Military Child

By Mrs. Mary Rall
3rd Services Marketing

Although it's often members of the military who sacrifice so much to ensure our security, the children of these servicemembers can't be overlooked for all they give to our hearts and minds. That's why 3rd Services Squadron would like to take the opportunity to recognize these children through a variety of programs directed toward the Month of the Military Child throughout April.

Part of the fun to be had during the celebration will be offered at the School Age Program during two very special days when parents can spend some time with their children while enjoying some treats and activities.

The fun can be enjoyed by the spoonful at an Ice Cream Sundae Making event April 8 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the School Age Program's Ketchikan site.

An Activity Day is also planned at the Ketchikan site April 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well. This event will include slime making, rocket building, flag making, an Alaska trivia game, Dance Revolution, and a taboo aerobic workout. Both

the Ice Cream Making event and Activity Day are open for parent participation.

Youth 17 and younger can score big through Month of the Military Child Bowling April 11-14 at the Polar Bowl as well. Games can be racked up for just 50 cents each from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Youth Center will be turning up the fun at a Month of the Military Child event April 15. The fun begins at 4 p.m. and will include music, the bounce house, a four-way

slide, games and door prizes.

Special events and activities are planned at the Sitka and Denali Child Development Centers throughout April as well. Parents should be sure to check with the facility where their child receives care to discover what will be featured.

For more information, visit www.elmendorfservices.com to see what other surprises and special events are being offered for family fun this and every month.



SENIOR AIRMAN AUSTIN MAY

Staff Sgt. Melissa Baker, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, drops her children Kyle and Kelly off at day care before heading to work Tuesday.

:::inside the fence

Friday Bowling, Tonight and April 8, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. for \$2.50 a game at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Give Parents a Break, Tonight from 7-11 p.m. at the Denali CDC. 552-8304

Peanut Butter and Jelly Snack Bar Special, Saturday at the Youth Center. 552-2266

Kids Korner Clay-Works Boxes, Saturday at 1 p.m. for \$15 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Family Xtreme Bowling, Sunday from 1-8 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Introduction to Stained Glass, Monday, April 11, 18 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. for \$65 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Airmen's Special, Monday from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Dorm Key Night, Monday show your dorm key and bowl for half price at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Intermediate Stained Glass, Monday, April 11, 18 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. for \$65 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Advanced Stained Glass, Monday, April 11, 18 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. for \$45 total at the

Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Bowler Appreciation Night, Tuesday from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

New Parent Orientations, Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Denali and Sitka CDC. 552-8304

Tournament Tips Chess Clinic, Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529

Children's Story Time, Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529

Beginning Sewing Button Holes, Zippers and Closures, Wednesday, April 13, 20 and 27 at 6:15 p.m. for \$60 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Wednesday Night Madness, Wednesday from 5-9 p.m. for \$15 per lane at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Beginning Pottery Handbuilding, Wednesday, April 13, 20 and 27 at 6 p.m. for \$60 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Ceramic Certification, Thursday at 3:30 p.m. for \$25 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Beginning Beading Easy Earrings, Thursday at 6 p.m. for \$25 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

\$1 Beer Night, Thursday at The Igloo at The Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Beginning Pottery on the Wheel, Thursday, April 14 and 21 at 6 p.m. for \$45 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Beginning Crochet, Thursday and April 14 at 5 p.m. for \$35 total at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Red Pin Bowling, Thursday from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Family Night Buffet, Thursday at the Susitna Club. 753-3131

Make Ice Cream Sundaes, April 8 with your child at the School Age Program. 552-5091

Super Friday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. The Cave and The Kashim Lounge. 753-3131

Beginning Cake Decorating III, April 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:45 p.m. for \$35 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

* Skills Development Center classes must be signed up for three days in advance.

:::sat

XTREME NIGHTS: Bowl in the weekend at All Night Xtreme bowling from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

MOVIE: *The Aviator* (PG-13) A snapshot in the life of Howard Hughes as he begins to direct the film "Hell's Angels." Hughes' obsession with perfection in the aerial sequences spurs him to extreme lengths, such as waiting interminably for perfect conditions, right down to cloud formations. "The Aviator" ends in 1946, when Hughes was still a young man. 7 p.m.

:::sun

DO IT YOURSELF: The Skills Development Centers Auto Hobby Shop is open for do it yourself work Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. 552-3473

MOVIE: *The Aviator* (PG-13) See Saturday for movie details. 7 p.m.

:::fyi

ALL YOU CAN EAT: Stop by the Susitna Club and fill your plate with the All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can enjoy All-American Mondays, Mexican Tuesdays, Pasta Wednesdays, Oriental Thursdays and Seafood Fridays. This buffet also includes the salad bar, a fountain soda, coffee or tea and dessert for \$7.25 at the regular price and \$6.25 with the members first discount. An additional \$1 will be charged for Friday's seafood buffet. 753-3131

Airplanes of the 1930s

By **1st Lt. Tony Wickman**
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

- 1. Divulge
- 5. Father figure
- 11. Douglas B-18 _____
- 12. Sopwith F-1s _____
- 14. A Gershwin
- 16. Chop ____; Chinese dish
- 17. Baker and _____
- 18. Part of a ship
- 19. Boeing B-17 Flying _____
- 21. Mouse sighting cry
- 22. Begins
- 25. Small bird; Anthus Motacillidae member
- 26. Soar
- 29. Stop
- 32. Consents
- 34. Meadow
- 35. Singer Redding
- 36. Gun lobby, in short
- 37. Cypress tree
- 38. Singer Jones

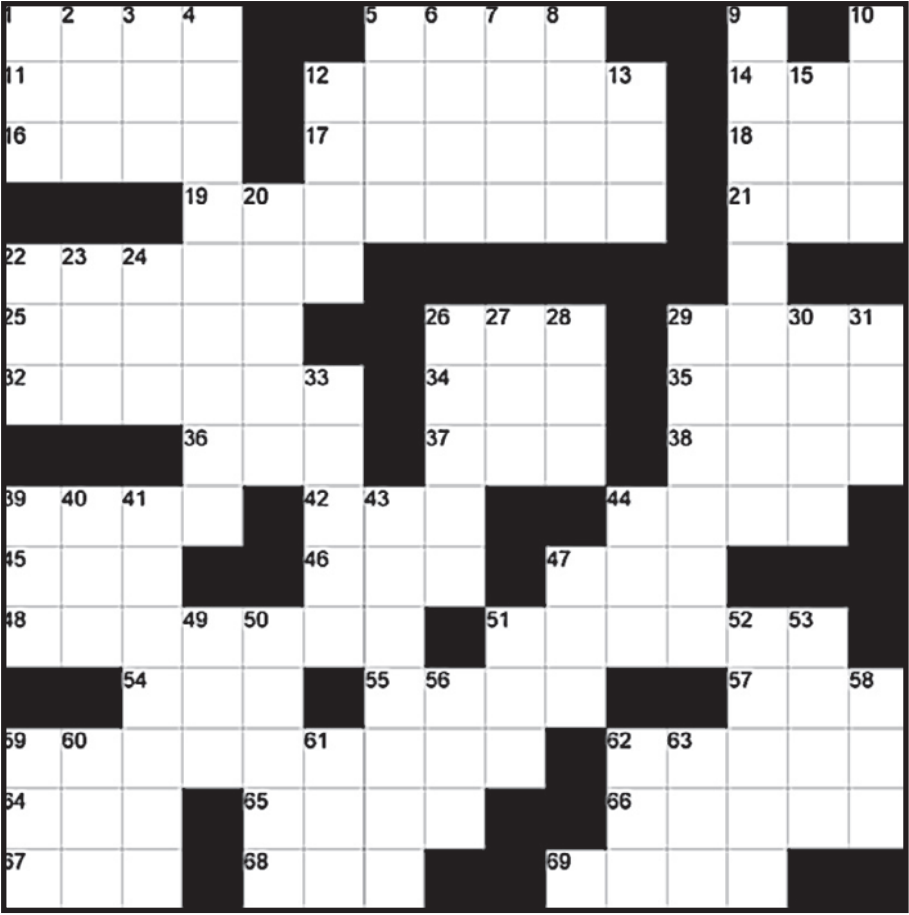
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Last week's solution

- 39. French maker of S.VII / .XIII
- 42. Exploit
- 44. Designer Wang
- 45. Help
- 46. Seafarer
- 47. Mil. move
- 48. Corpse
- 51. U.S. aircraft maker of B-10 / B-12
- 54. Earthquake center?
- 55. Rope
- 57. Trig. function
- 59. Bleroit _____
- 62. Thomas-Morse S4C _____
- 64. AFFTC (Edwards AFB) mission
- 65. Relieve
- 66. Curtiss JN-4D _____
- 67. Shuttle identifier
- 68. CD or DVD computer driver
- 69. Friends

DOWN

- 1. Chat service, in short
- 2. Yankee great Gehrig
- 3. Pub order
- 4. Beau
- 5. Wheeze
- 6. Far East male royalty
- 7. Tennis player Sampras
- 8. Unfortunately
- 9. Consolidated B-24 _____
- 10. Curtiss P-6E _____
- 12. Autos
- 13. Draft org.
- 15. Caviar starter
- 20. Sea animal
- 22. Resort
- 23. Type of welder
- 24. Spring mon.



- 26. Wright 1909 Military ____
- 27. Confederate general
- 28. Pitch
- 29. ____ Abe
- 30. Italian money, once
- 31. Org. concerned with airport security
- 33. Cooking method
- 39. Vesicle
- 40. Actress Zadora
- 41. Summands
- 43. Wry depiction
- 44. DVD precursor
- 47. Bachelor's place
- 49. Mil. address
- 50. Thomas-Morse XP-13 _____
- 51. Mil. meal in the field
- 52. Computer desktop images
- 53. Sentence part
- 56. Air Force ____
- 58. Pig's pen
- 59. Married lady, in short
- 60. Can. province
- 61. SE Asia Thai person
- 62. USAF lawyer
- 63. Fahr. opposite

SPORTS NEWS

Pool ‘sharks’ take to Kashim Club

By Senior Airman Amy Morrisette
3rd Wing Public Affairs

While billiards may seem like a casual sport taking place in a bar or game room, it is said to be mathematically the most difficult game in the world. However, that is exactly what draws some people to the sport.

For beginners, pocketing the ball involves a whole lot of luck, but for experienced players, it’s all about calculating just the right angle at just the right speed. That’s exactly the type of calculations that Elmendorf’s Intramural Billiards League players are working to figure out every week.

“I like pool because it’s challenging. Every opponent is different, every game is different, and one mistake can cost you the game,” said Joseph Hill from the 3rd Communications Squadron billiards team.

“With 16 balls, six rails and six pockets, there are an almost infinite number of ways to pocket the balls, conversely there are also just as many ways to miss,” added James Bredahl, a member of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron’s billiards team.

While some of the league’s players are just trying to be more consistent in their play, there are others who are trying to think ahead. “When you play, you have to think about your next shot and maybe even one or two shots ahead of that. You want to set yourself up and make it easier for your follow up shot,” Greg Naatz said, a member of the 3rd Operations Support Squadron billiards team.

“Practice makes perfect.” If the old adage holds true, then the Elmendorf’s pool league players are taking a step forward these past few months. “Beginning in February, we’ve been competing in tournaments every Tuesday and Thursday nights, and we’ll continue through the end of April,” said Naatz.

While pool can be challenging, everyone gets to play on the Elmendorf billiards league. “A good thing about the league is that any active-duty member of any skill level is welcome to play; no experience is necessary. In fact, the more participation the better,” said Hill.

This year’s pool league consists of six three-person teams from various units around base. On any tournament night, each player on a team will shoot one game in each of three rounds. The team who won the most rounds at the end of the night wins the match. However, only one team will earn enough wins to be named “the best billiards team on Elmendorf.”



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DEJUAN HALEY

James Bredahl, a member of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron billiards team, goes for a corner shot during a billiards tournament at the Kashim Club.

Hill said he joined to test his team’s skills against the rest of the base for the second time. “Last year, our team took the trophy with 11 wins and only two losses for the season. This year, my friends and I decided it would be fun to see how we stand against this year’s competition.”

Currently, the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron is in first place with eight wins, with the 3rd Operational Support Squadron a close second with seven wins. But with about a month remaining until the season,

it’s still too early to predict just who is going to the playoffs.

What is certain is that Elmendorf’s pool players can be seen at the Kashim Club twice a week between 5 and 7 p.m., “mixing both skill and strategy and taking each game competitively or light-heartedly, but either way having a good time,” said Hill.

For more information about the pool league, call intramural sports director Ron West at 552-3504.



Elmendorf Billiards League standings

Team	Wins	Loses
732nd AMS	8	2
3rd OSS	7	3
3rd CS 1	5	5
3rd EMS	5	5
3rd CS 2	5	5
3rd LRS	0	10

** Standings current as of March 31